First Solar Silver State North Solar Project

Toward a safe, clean energy future: First Solar Silver State North Solar Project is the first solar energy project ever approved for construction on public lands in Nevada.

VITALS

Location: Clark County, Nevada **Technology:** Photovoltaic Panels

Electricity production capacity: 50 MW_{AC} (60

 MW_{DC})

Company: First Solar, Inc., Tempe, AZ

BY THE NUMBERS – the project is expected to:

- ✓ Generate enough electricity to power approximately 15,000 homes.
- ✓ Create 300 construction jobs and up to 10 permanent operation jobs.
- ✓ Generate \$250,000 of tax revenue annually in property taxes paid to Clark County.
- ✓ Be located on 618 acres. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) oversees more than 2.5 million acres in Clark County, including over 1.1 million acres managed for conservation. This includes over 709,000 acres of habitat the BLM has designated primarily for the conservation of the threatened desert tortoise.

A SMART, COLLABORATIVE PROCESS: In April of 2009, the BLM committed to helping the nation reach its clean energy future by guaranteeing coordinated processing, full environmental analysis, and public review for specific renewable energy projects where the companies involved had demonstrated they were ready to advance to the formal environmental review and public participation process.

STRONG ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW AND MITIGATION: The BLM worked closely with federal, state and local partners, members of the environmental and conservation community, and interested stakeholders to advance environmentally sound projects.

✓ Visual Resource Management: The BLM will require a natural color palette for painted structures and controlled night lighting, designed to reduce visual impacts on the local community.



¹ NextLight Renewable Power, LLC, the project's original developer, was acquired by First Solar, Inc. on July 12, 2010

✓ Protecting Wildlife: Tortoise fencing and mitigation—First Solar and the BLM worked closely with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to develop a relocation/translocation plan for any tortoises found on the site. The 2010 spring surveys found 7 desert tortoises in the Phase 1 project area.

ANOTHER RECOVERY ACT LEGACY: The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) has served as an opportunity to transform the way we use energy, reducing our carbon emissions and creating entire new industries based on America's resources, America's ingenuity, and America's workers. Through the Recovery Act's payments in lieu of tax credits for specified energy programs, First Solar can apply for payments of up to 30 percent of the eligible costs of the project—approximately \$50 million. These payments are authorized by Section 1603 of the ARRA tax title.

THE BIG PICTURE: Silver State North is one of the projects that will help achieve the Administration and Interior initiative to make a rapid and responsible move to large-scale production of renewable energy on public lands. The State of Nevada is working to achieve a 25 percent Renewable Portfolio Standard by 2025.